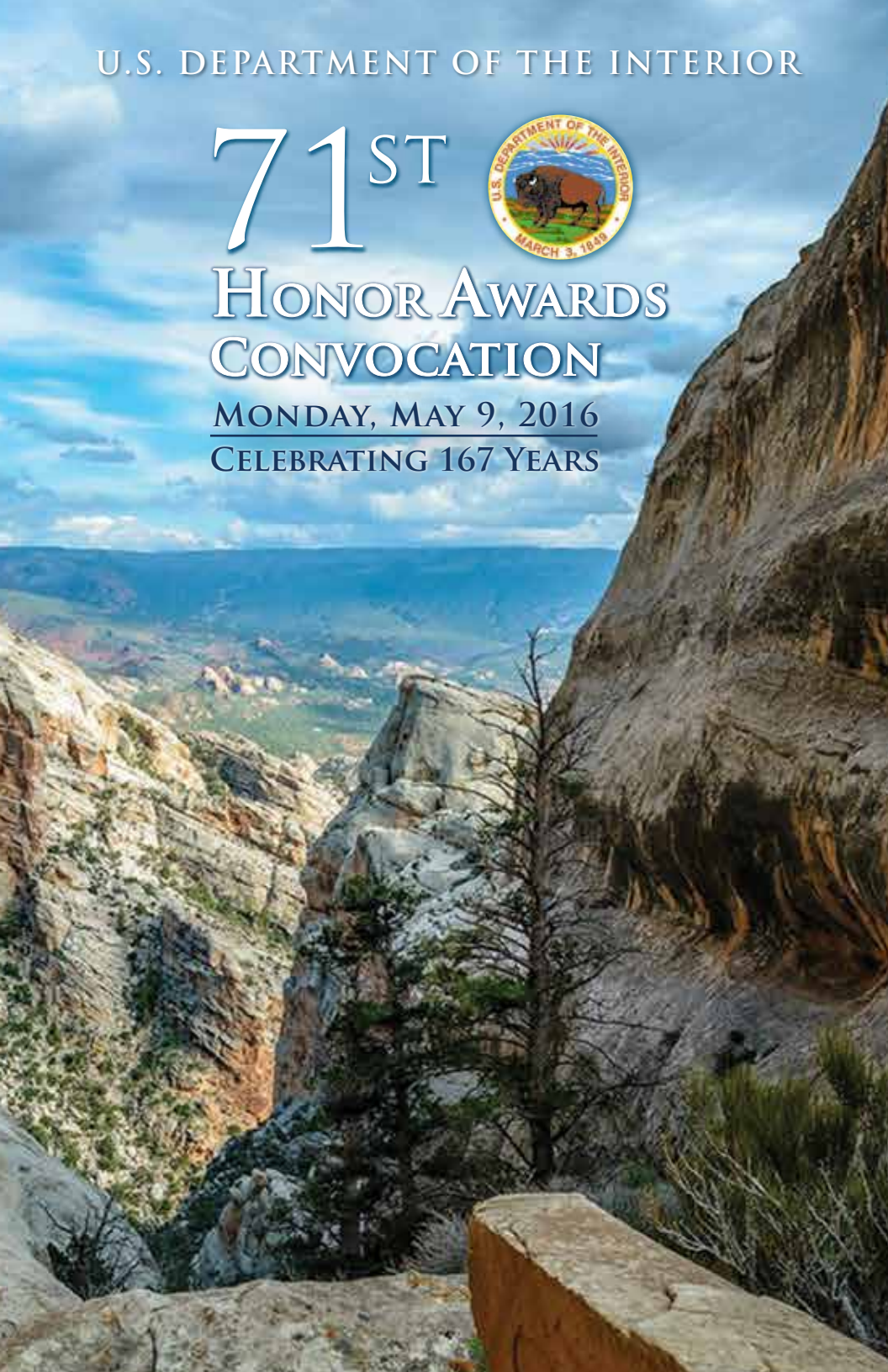
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

71ST HONOR AWARDS CONVOCATION

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016

CELEBRATING 167 YEARS



U.S. Department of the Interior
71st Honor Awards Convocation

Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building

Program

MUSICAL PRELUDE	***Jeffery Donahoe*** Assistant Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ***Linus Chen*** Attorney-Advisor, Solicitor's Office ***Mary Josie Blanchard*** Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance ***Lydia Grund*** 10th grade student at George Mason High School
INTRODUCTIONS & NARRATOR	***Daniel DuBray*** Bureau of Reclamation
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	***U.S. Park Police Honor Guard***
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM	***Michellé Howard-Hanson*** Office of Facilities and Administrative Services
WELCOME	***Michael Connor*** Deputy Secretary
MOMENT OF SILENCE	***In Memory of Department Employees who Died in the Line of Duty***
CONGRATULATORY REMARKS	***Sally Jewell*** Secretary of the Interior
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	***Safety and Health Awards of Excellence*** ***Aviation Safety Award*** ***Distinguished Service Awards*** ***Valor Awards***
CLOSING REMARKS	***Daniel DuBray*** Bureau of Reclamation

Message from the Secretary

Welcome to the 71st Honor Awards Convocation. It is a great privilege to recognize the employees who have made such remarkable contributions to the mission of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Today's honorees showcase the diverse mission and geographic reach of the Department around the world. They include people such as: a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officer who saved a distressed swimmer from the ocean waters; members of the U.S. Geological Survey who developed a plan to improve search and rescue response; an Office of Law Enforcement and Security employee who developed and implemented protective plans for some of the Nation's most-treasured monuments and icons; and employees across the bureaus who led efforts to conserve the greater sage-grouse—to name just a few examples. Regardless of whether these employees work behind a desk or out on America's public lands, their actions have contributed to the conservation and thoughtful management of the Nation's natural, historic, and cultural resources. They are forward-thinking, tenacious, courageous, and dedicated. Congratulations to today's awardees and my sincerest thanks for your exceptional service to the people of the United States of America.

SALLY JEWELL
Secretary of the Interior


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MARCH 3, 1849

Employees of the Department of the Interior Who Died in the Line of Duty Since the May 7, 2015, Honor Awards Convocation

Bureau of Land Management

Terry Sonner

U.S. Geological Survey

Daniel Sarr

Safety Awards

The Department of the Interior presents the prestigious Safety and Health Award of Excellence and the Aviation Safety Award. These awards are the highest-level safety, health, and aviation awards granted by the Department and are presented by the Secretary of the Interior. These awards recognize individuals or groups that have performed an outstanding service or made a contribution of unusual value to the occupational safety and health of employees, visitors, volunteers, and aircraft accident prevention.

Safety and Health Award of Excellence Recipients

U.S. Geological Survey - Kansas Water Science Center

Guy M. Foster
Brian L. Loving
Colin C. Painter

This deserving group of individuals developed the Kansas Water Science Center Field Work "Safe-Return" plan which uses Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to provide a method for early emergency detection for swift search and rescue assistance if needed. The GPS technology provides critical details of the field person's last known whereabouts should immediate assistance be warranted to check on a field employee's welfare.

Aviation Safety Award

Mark D. Koneff

As Chief of the largest and most visible group of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) pilots and aircraft, Mark captured the attention and admiration of both FWS leadership and Department aviation managers. One of Mark's first acts was to purchase personal locator beacons (PLB) for all Branch biologist-pilots and their crew members. These PLBs replaced old, outdated equipment that allowed each person flying high-risk surveys in remote, austere locations to have the best chance of survival in an emergency situation by carrying the device on their person. Mark also distributed emergency-use satellite phones to several biologist-pilots who did not have them. Mark's commitment to aviation safety and continual improvement provides the FWS with a solid foundation in accomplishing their mission safely and effectively.

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honorary recognition an employee can receive within the Department of the Interior. It is granted for an outstanding contribution to science, outstanding skill or ability in the performance of duty, outstanding contribution made during an eminent career in the Department, or any other exceptional contribution to the public service. Recipients receive a special certificate and citation signed by the Secretary along with an engraved gold Distinguished Service Medal and a gold lapel pin.

Distinguished Service Award

Award Recipients

Bureau of Land Management

Ronald L. Dunton*
Carol C. Evans
Amy R. Kuritsubo
Douglas J. Lalla
Amy L. Lueders*
Edwin L. Roberson*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Joan R. Barminski
Joseph A. Christopher
Sharon E. Warren

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Donna C. Brewer
Richard R. Hannan
Ralph W. Tiner

Bureau of Reclamation

Jennifer Bountry
Robert J. Hamilton
Timothy R. Randle

National Park Service

Brian D. Winter
Caven P. Clark
Maureen Finnerty
Samuel Q. Whittington

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Gregory J. Gould

**Award Previously Presented*

Distinguished Service Award

Award Recipients

Office of the Secretary

Nicholas Chomycia*
Estle R. Lewis-McBride
James C. Douglas
Glenn F. Smith

Office of the Solicitor

Barry N. Roth

U.S. Geological Survey

Brenda K. Jones
Thomas R. Loveland
David P. Russ
Denis R. LeBlanc
Michael T. Meyer

**Award Previously Presented*

RONALD L. DUNTON

Ronald Dunton is being recognized for his exemplary leadership and remarkable contributions to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Dunton has served the Bureau for more than 40 years and began his career as a Bureau firefighter and was promoted to positions of increasing responsibility, serving in several high-level management positions in the Bureau's fire and natural resources programs. Prior to his position as the Bureau's Assistant Director for Fire and Aviation, Mr. Dunton was the Project Manager and Authorized Officer for the Bureau's Office of Pipeline Monitoring in Alaska. Earlier in his career, he served as the Bureau's New Mexico Deputy State Director for Lands and Resources, as well as the National Fire Program Manager at the National Interagency Fire Center, and as the Acting Director for the Office of Wildland Fire Coordination in Washington, DC. However while working for Fire and Aviation, Mr. Dunton demonstrated superior leadership, bringing focus to the essential role that the Fire and Aviation organization can play in reducing the threat of wildfire to the sage-steppe ecosystem. This includes the significant threat of rangeland fire to the continued viability of the greater sage-grouse. Under his direction, the Bureau organized and convened the conference *The Next Steppe: Sage-Grouse and Rangeland Fire in the Great Basin*, which helped to frame the discussions that led to Secretarial Order 3336 and the Department's Integrated Rangeland Fire Management Strategy.

CAROL C. EVANS

Carol C. Evans is being recognized for her dedication and leadership protecting, managing, and recovering habitat for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout on public lands in Nevada. For nearly all of her 34 years of service, Ms. Evans has served as a fisheries biologist with the Bureau of Land Management's Elko, Nevada, District Office, where she has worked to bring in tens of millions of dollars in funds and in-kind contributions to aid the species. In the District's Maggie Creek Watershed, Ms. Evans worked with mining companies, ranchers, and organizations to improve over 99 miles of stream habitat that support an interconnected trout population. She has persevered despite setbacks, such as wildfire impacts to the landscape, but Ms. Evans' quiet style, realism, perseverance, and vision have set high standards for other public land managers.

AMY R. KURITSUBO

In over 3 decades with the Bureau of Land Management's Bakersfield Field Office, Amy R. Kuritsubo has dedicated her time, knowledge, and energy to serving public lands. She has contributed to writing five Resource Management Plans, and has written numerous biological opinions. Ms. Kuritsubo's collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on these biological opinions has dramatically increased efficiency between the Agencies. She has also instructed many employees throughout the BLM and FWS on the Endangered Species Act over 30-plus years. Ms. Kuritsubo's peers hold her in the highest esteem, exemplifying the BLM's public trust responsibility, and her presence is cited as a major contributor to intra-office cohesion, collaboration, and accomplishment.

DOUGLAS J. LALLA

As a geophysicist, Mr. Lalla has made significant contributions to the evaluation and assessment of federally owned oil and natural gas resources in Alaska and the safe transportation of those resources. His work has helped meet the need for safe, responsible, and environmentally sustainable domestic energy production. Mr. Lalla began his Federal service in 1981 at the U.S. Geological Survey, interpreting geophysical data for the first lease sale in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). His work helped determine where oil could be found, the probability of success in developing those resources, and the value of leases within the NPR-A. He did similar work for the Bureau once those responsibilities were transferred to it. In 1991, he began working in BLM Alaska's pipeline monitoring office. His oversight of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) has included significant work reviewing the structural integrity of TAPS. He led a team to verify and resolve seismic, control system, and leak detection issues found by a congressional audit significantly contributing to the safe operation of the pipeline. His review of seismic issues was critical to the continuing safe operation of TAPS during the 7.9-magnitude Denali Earthquake of 2002. In his spare time, he volunteered at the Alaska Volcano Observatory analyzing the seismicity of Augustine Volcano from 1976-2006.

AMY L. LUEDERS

Ms. Lueders has served BLM for more than 30 years, demonstrating the utmost dedication and professionalism. Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was scheduled to make the historic decision of whether to list the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act. During this critical time, Ms. Lueders made significant contributions towards the Bureau's efforts to conserve the greater sage-grouse, ultimately leading to the FWS decision that the listing of the bird was not warranted. Ms. Lueders also provided exceptional leadership as the Nevada State Director, making conservation a priority in the State that has the largest area of intact greater sage-grouse habitat. In 2015, she served as the Acting BLM Assistant Director of Renewable Resources and Planning, leading the effort to finish two Records of Decision for Resource Management Plans (RMPs) covering BLM lands across the West. To complete the RMPs, Ms. Lueders demonstrated extraordinary skill in collaborating with various Federal and State agencies, the Bureau's state directors, cooperators, and stakeholders. Previous to being the Nevada State Director, Ms. Leuders held a number of positions within the Bureau, beginning as a mineral economist in 1984 and then advancing in budget development and program analysis in the Bureau's Washington, DC office, affecting species and game management on Federal, State, and private lands.

EDWIN L. ROBERSON

Mr. Roberson has served the Bureau for more than 35 years, demonstrating a superior commitment to the mission of the Bureau as the Director of the BLM National Operations Center (NOC). Prior to that role, he was the Bureau's point person on the development of a strategy to conserve the greater sage-grouse in the role of Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning, and his extraordinary work significantly contributed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) decision to not list the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act in 2015. When he worked for the BLM in New Mexico, Mr. Roberson's considerable expertise framing an effective conservation strategy for the lesser prairie chicken was an invaluable asset. His skills were essential in framing the architecture for the landscape-level greater sage-grouse conservation strategy. Mr. Roberson worked with the FWS and the U.S. Forest Service to lead the collaborative effort that provided the foundation for the landscape strategy. He provided exceptional leadership in this area, leading all of the early discussions among the Bureau's state directors, U.S. Forest Service and FWS staff and representatives of the relevant state offices that culminated in the completion of 2 Records of Decision that revised or amended 68 Resource Management Plans.

JOAN R. BARMINSKI

Ms. Barminski, Regional Director for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Pacific Region, leads BOEM's efforts in providing access to conventional and renewable energy resources offshore to California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii. Her career with the Department of the Interior's offshore energy programs began in 1977 as an Oceanographer. As the Department's stewardship role in the Outer Continental Shelf's (OCS) oil and natural gas resources expanded, so did Ms. Barminski's responsibilities in the area of geology. As a Geologist in the Pacific OCS Region, Ms. Barminski contributed significantly to studies regarding opportunities and incentives to maximize production from leased lands. She led efforts to respond to lengthy and difficult litigation regarding the disposition of undeveloped leases. Following her service as a Supervisory Geologist in the Pacific Region, she was promoted to Deputy Regional Director. In that capacity, she managed the budget, spearheaded a number of partnerships with other agencies to achieve efficiencies in research and outreach, and participated in complex policy decisions of regional and national importance. Ms. Barminski played an important role in planning the reorganization of the Department's OCS energy management programs and successfully maintained staff morale during a time of uncertainty. Her work and leadership were critical to the launch of BOEM and ultimately resulted in her being named the Regional Director for the Pacific Region. Her myriad of duties include overseeing highly technical conventional energy analyses of reserve estimates and Worst Case Discharge studies, leading regional efforts to develop the renewable energy program, and serving on numerous working groups, including the West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health.

JOSEPH A. CHRISTOPHER

Mr. Christopher's 37-year career with the Department of the Interior has been distinguished by exceptional performance and numerous significant contributions encompassing all aspects of environmental stewardship and resource management. He began his career with the United States Geological Service in 1978, and has served with the Bureau of Land Management, Mineral Management Service (MMS), and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Mr. Christopher served in many capacities over the years, ultimately becoming the Regional Supervisor of BOEM's Gulf of Mexico OCS Region's Office of Environment (OE). Mr. Christopher's strong leadership has successfully guided this agency through challenges over the years, as well as catastrophic events including Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the Deepwater Horizon explosion, oil spill, and response. He was instrumental in the implementation of several major reorganizations, including the creation of BOEM, which resulted from the reorganization of MMS in 2011.

Throughout his career, he has taken the lead in resolving environmental issues, ensuring compliance with multiple regulatory requirements and managing successful lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. During his successful tenure, OE has become recognized as a major contributor to the management and stewardship of the marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. This includes the development of environmental impact statements to support the Gulf of Mexico oil and gas lease sale program and the successful completion of numerous consultations, including those under the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the government-to-government tribal consultations. Mr. Christopher has also been instrumental in the development of the Bureau's award winning Environmental Studies Program, which follows the highest of scientific principles to conduct mission essential research, and he was one of the first members of the Bureau's professional dive team.

SHARON WARREN

Throughout her 40 year career with the Department of the Interior in Alaska, Sharon Warren has demonstrated exceptional regulatory insight, technical knowledge, and leadership in the advancement of public administration and the stewardship of our natural resources, making contributions to multiple bureaus and offices. At the Bureau of Land Management, she led teams in developing strategies to resolve complex land entitlement issues resulting in the transfer of millions of acres to the State of Alaska, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Corporations, and individual Alaska Natives. At the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she assisted in successfully promulgating subsistence regulations; and, with the Secretary's Alaska Office, led the successful implementation of the 2007 Interior Secretary's North Slope Initiative. Her contributions to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and its two predecessor bureaus are numerous. She provided leadership in the conduct of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease sales, ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Ms. Warren has also contributed to numerous reports on the Arctic and energy and marine minerals operations: including, providing authoritative expertise in developing marine mineral regulations, resulting in the Department's first ever mineral lease sale on the OCS offshore in the State of Alaska. Throughout her career she has mentored countless students and employees from various programs, many deciding on a Federal career. As a Diversity Change Agent, she led the effort to complete a charter for the national team.

DONNA C. BREWER

Ms. Donna C. Brewer, Chief of Branch of Applied Landscape Conservation, has actively combined scientific knowledge and policy deliberation in pursuit of the responsible management of the Nation's natural resources. Her knowledge of the people, expert skills, and programs within the Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other Department of the Interior bureaus enables her to be an effective catalyst for collaborative working across different bureaus, bringing together the best talent to work on the most important issues. Her vision and entrepreneurial spirit was evident in the design and establishment of the Applied Landscape Conservation curriculum at the National Conservation Training Center between 2005 and 2014, which encompassed topics of structured decision making, strategic habitat conservation, and climate change. This curriculum is well known internationally and within the Department of the Interior, which allows her to work with conservation partners delivering landscape conservation in the face of climate change. Ms. Brewer developed and taught in close partnership with U.S. Geological Survey and goes beyond classroom training to deliver relevant on-the-ground science, analysis, and facilitation to support management decisions. Ms. Brewer has organized numerous structured decision making workshops which brought groups that consists of representatives from all the Department bureaus, at least four other Federal Departments, states, tribes, local governments, industry, and academia. Dozens of universities around the world have used the National Conservation Training Center Applied Landscape Conservation curriculum as the inspiration and basis for their own curricula. Ms. Brewer has been the motivating leader and administrative force behind her work, which has so greatly benefited the wildlife, fish, parks, water, and people of this Nation.

RICHARD R. HANNAN

Mr. Richard R. Hannan is an outstanding leader and dedicated to the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His contributions and outstanding leadership led to the inter-regional Endangered Species Act, the Klamath Basin biological and the National Science Academy report of excellence. He was responsible for the creation of a joint Service/Bureau of Land Management Human Resources Office which created an improved and more efficient service for all. In addition, Mr. Hannan has strengthened relationships through mentoring and expanding his involvement of Native Alaskans and sponsored the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program. He collaborated with states and other partners, resulting in community-based solutions to control the mosquitos in the Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. He also contributed to the improvement of the overall management of the Marine National Monuments and restoring the Columbia River tidal estuary to save the endangered deer and salmon population. He is often sought out as a coach, mentor, and role model for future leaders of tomorrow throughout the Service.

RALPH W. TINER

Mr. Ralph W. Tiner, Wetland Ecologist, has 40 years of experience in mapping wetlands and directing wetland mapping in the Northeast United States as part of the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) National Wetlands Inventory. Mr. Tiner's application of scientific principles and technical rigor to wetland delineation, classification, research, and teaching has supported the mission of the Service, the Department, and other Federal and State agencies. He has demonstrated that a single person can make an extraordinary difference. Working in collaboration with wetland mappers, scientists, and program staff around the country, he has been instrumental in the evolution of our understanding of wetlands and how to protect and conserve them. He has led the Service and assisted states and other partners in mapping the wetlands of the Northeast as well as other parts of the country. He has also readily adopted new concepts to more accurately identify wetland boundaries and developed tools such as National Wetland Inventory to complement the vegetation-based Cowardin classification system with hydrogeomorphic identifiers. This understanding makes it possible for wetland professionals, wildlife managers, local planners, and others to assess the importance of wetlands, both individually and on a watershed basis, to see patterns in the landscape, track degradation and recovery, and set goals for integrating wetland resource protection and restoration into broader objectives.

Elwha River Restoration Project

A result of nearly 3 decades of concentrated and diligent efforts, the Elwha River Restoration project included the largest dam removal in United States history. Led by the National Park Service, key partners included the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, City of Port Angeles, Clallam County, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and several Washington State agencies. Removal of the two Elwha dams freed the Elwha River and restored access for Pacific and steelhead salmon to over 70 miles of unspoiled habitat. The return of anadromous fish has brought back a vital source of nutrients to an ecosystem and a national park that have been deprived of this resource for a century. Dam removal has also restored the natural sediment flow of the river, rebuilding wetlands, beaches, and the estuary at the river's mouth. As a result of the restored river and returning salmon, previously inundated sacred sites have been uncovered, revitalizing the cultural traditions of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe.

JENNIFER BOUNTRY

As a hydraulic engineer in the Bureau of Reclamation's Sedimentation and River Hydraulics Group, Ms. Jennifer Bountry assisted in the design and implementation of critical models and programs for the Elwha River Restoration project. As a key member of the sediment management team since 1993, Ms. Bountry helped develop the sediment routing model, then collected and analyzed vast amounts of data. Her analysis was critical to the successful design of the dam removal contracts, as well as the subsequent sediment adaptive management and monitoring program. She also planned the field monitoring trips, coordinating complex efforts with multiple partners. Ms. Bountry's humor and positive attitude often lightened difficult management discussions and contributed to the success of the project.

ROBERT J. HAMILTON

Mr. Robert Hamilton has been the Bureau of Reclamation's (Bureau) single point of contact for the Service since he began work on the project in 1992. Although based in Boise, Idaho, Mr. Hamilton has coordinated Bureau activities with the Denver Technical Service Center, Yakima Regional and Field Offices, and the Commissioner's Office with an effective and reasoned hand. He translated the complex scientific engineering language of the project to a variety of clients including managers, biologists, planners, and educators while helping draft the many interagency agreements that were needed to support Bureau activities. His work helped estimate project budget increases as new information arrived and mitigation requirements were modified. His efforts also educated a diverse Bureau work force on the intricacies of providing technical support to the Service.

TIMOTHY R. RANDLE

Dr. Timothy Randle is the manager of the Bureau of Reclamation's Sedimentation and River Hydraulics Group in Denver, Colorado. His leadership and service have been instrumental in the success of the Elwha River Restoration project. As head of the sediment management team, Dr. Randle led the development of a sediment erosion model that was critical to the successful design of the dam removal contracts. He also directed the development of the sediment adaptive management and monitoring program, which was critical for the successful implementation of dam removal, minimizing adverse effects downstream for the release of millions of cubic yards of sediment from the former reservoir areas. Dr. Randle's public presentations were also vital to convincing the Port Angeles City to agree to restart the removal of Glines Canyon Dam in 2013.

BRIAN D. WINTER

Dr. Brian D. Winter has held a leadership role for the Elwha River Restoration project for nearly 3 decades and has been the Elwha project manager since 1993. His keen intellect, and his ability to understand and distill complex issues, have been and continue to be instrumental to the success of the largest dam removal and river restoration project in United States history. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Winter has resolved numerous complex legal and sensitive political issues while spearheading the development of the foundational studies, reports, and environmental impact statements. Under his leadership, the National Park Service developed and sustains key partnerships that help to plan and negotiate vital mitigation agreements and activities, accomplish dam removal, and achieve ecosystem and fish restoration. As a result of the restored river and returning salmon, previously inundated sacred sites have been uncovered, revitalizing the cultural traditions of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Dr. Winter has dedicated nearly his entire professional career to restoring the Elwha River. While many contractors, engineers, scientists, and administrators contributed to the Elwha River Restoration, no single person is more responsible for the success of the project than Dr. Winter.

CAVEN CLARK

Hired as an archeologist in 2004, Dr. Caven P. Clark has significantly advanced cultural resource protection across the Service. He has worked closely with Native American tribes, law enforcement officials, park staff, and other agencies to integrate archeological and cultural resource awareness into daily operations. His efforts have assisted in protecting archeological sites from varied threats that include looting, vandalism, fire, and natural erosion. In conjunction with special law enforcement agents and chief park rangers in the Midwest Region, in 2005, the Cultural and Archeological Resource Team was established to aid parks in the investigation and prosecution of cultural resource crimes. Dr. Clark helped train this core group and continues to provide training and technical expertise for cultural resource incidents nationwide. His work to educate and train archeologists and field rangers has led to the success of Cultural and Archeological Resource Team. Dr. Clark is responsible for co-writing the Archeological Resources Protection Act Plan, a set of standard operating procedures for managing and protecting cultural resource assets. This plan is used as a template for parks throughout the Service to establish aggressive cultural resource protection programs. In addition, Dr. Clark was instrumental in using Geographic Information System software to assist field personnel in identifying new sites and detecting violations. After his arrival at Buffalo National River, the number of felony convictions for Archeological Resources Protection Act violations doubled. In 2011, Dr. Clark was assigned to a team led by the Investigative Services Branch to investigate five individuals suspected of looting and trafficking artifacts from Federal properties in three states, based on a "mobile observatory" that collects and displays data during rapid responses creating an innovative seismic-data analysis tool for eruption forecasting. He also co-developed the framework for a National Volcano Early Warning System.

MAUREEN FINNERTY

Ms. Maureen Finnerty was the Superintendent of Olympic National Park who worked with and convinced 6th congressional Washington State Representative Norm Dicks of the necessity of the Elwha River Restoration project. Ms. Finnerty's specialized knowledge helped restore damaged lands and reestablished important sacred customs. Her addition to the completion of the project was not just necessary, but instrumental in its success while helping to enact the proposed law at that time.

SAMUEL Q. WHITTINGTON

Throughout his career, Mr. Samuel Whittington has maintained a relentless commitment to providing excellent design and construction services on behalf of the Federal Government. He is widely recognized as an expert in the field of engineering and is frequently consulted by the Service and other Department of the Interior bureaus for his expertise. Mr. Whittington worked diligently to support the vision and the goals of the Department by playing a key role in the success of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, as well as the Hurricane Sandy Recovery projects. Because of Mr. Whittington's leadership, the Denver Service Center was a major contributor to the Elwha River Restoration project at Olympic National Park. The unprecedented project was the largest dam removal project and the second largest ecosystem restoration in the history of the United States. Now complete, the dam demolition freed the Elwha River, and 7 species of salmon and more than 70 miles of river habitat are being restored. Under Mr. Whittington, the Denver Service Center is also a leader in project management processes, construction safety, and sustainability. From the repair of the Washington Monument after earthquake damage, to developing the Flight 93 National Memorial, numerous projects across the Service owe their success to Mr. Whittington's leadership. His dedication, personal work ethic, willingness to collaborate with others, and unwavering focus on client services has made the Denver Service Center successful and has earned him the esteem of his colleagues and customers. His ability to integrate and manage so many complex acquisitions and agreements is a tribute to his experience as a program manager and use of his professional judgment.

GREGORY J. GOULD

Throughout his 35-year career with the Department, Mr. Gould has exhibited a commitment to excellence and provided vision, innovation, and leadership to support the management of the Nation's natural resources. When Office of Natural Resources Revenue was created in 2010, Mr. Gould engaged employees in a top to bottom organizational review to improve management and oversight. He effectively institutionalized an employee-driven continuous improvement process that integrates employee input, establishes strong communication, and fosters accountability across ONRR. His contributions were invaluable to the successful creation of ONRR and as a direct result of his leadership, the Denver Post named ONRR one of the "Best Places to Work." A key component of this work is implementation of the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI). Through his engagement in all facets of USEITI—from the formation of the multi-stakeholder group to the launch of an online Data Portal that improves data accessibility and transparency—Mr. Gould has been instrumental in its success. By enhancing public participation, transparency, and accountability and strategically aligning ONRR's mission with the principles

and standards of the Open Government Partnership, Mr. Gould advanced the revenue reform efforts underway and strengthened the public's trust in ONRR's stewardship. By valuing interdependencies across the Department, Mr. Gould improved coordination and collaboration and obtained commitments to ensure effective working relationships that cascade from the highest levels of leadership to frontline employees. His efforts have yielded dramatic enhancements to business processes, measurable improvements in performance and employee morale, and ultimately have provided better, more citizen-centered government services.

NICHOLAS CHOMYCIA

Mr. Chomycia's exemplary contributions have been pivotal in enhancing the stewardship of human capital in the Office of Human Resources and the Department of the Interior. He has provided outstanding advice to improve initiatives and practices in one of the most complex human capital environments in the Federal Government. Through his efforts, the Department's emergency management program transformed from a decentralized program to a comprehensive framework to meet evolving requirements post-9/11. Mr. Chomycia's extensive experience provided sound and authoritative employee relations advice to internal and external customers during this challenging and unprecedented period. Based on departmental guidance for performance management, he worked closely with staff, bureaus/offices, and key stakeholders on the Enterprise Forms System team to develop complex workflow plans which shaped the functionality of the electronic version of the Department's Supervisor/Employee Performance Appraisal Plans (EPAP). His tireless efforts on the workflows and summary information ultimately resulted in the implementation of the EPAP throughout the Department. Among his most lasting contributions through the institution of performance management include: increasing the efficiency of programs in performance management development; instilling fairness and consistency of performance evaluations; and ensuring the establishment of consistent and high quality review of policies and agency procedures. Through the development of strong and consistent practices, policy, and supporting programs, he has strengthened the success of the Office of Human Resources and the Department's human capital arena well into the future. These accomplishments could not have been achieved without Mr. Chomycia's unique blend of Human Resource expertise, determined leadership, and continuous commitment to the excellence of human capital.

JAMES C. DOUGLAS

Mr. Douglas' career highlights his vision, critical thinking, and innovation; his accomplishments on behalf of the Department are significant. His early years of service were focused in policy analysis and budget, giving him broad exposure to Department programs and a deep level of knowledge. He became the Department's Fire Program Coordinator in the early 1990's wherein he led the (1) creation and implementation of a unified Department-wide wildland fire budget and (2) development of the 1995 Federal wildland fire management policy and the 2001 update, both of which are still in effect today. As the wildland fire program matured, so did his portfolio of responsibility. He created the Department's first all-hazards/emergency management program and provided interagency leadership in continuity of operations policy and planning in support of Y2K contingency planning. Mr. Douglas was asked to join the White House Homeland Security Council where he was the principal author of Homeland Security Policy Directive 5, Domestic Incident Management, which is still in effect today. Mr. Douglas is a proven leader in the Department and the interagency community on wildland fire policy and programs, budget strategy and implementation, and strategic thinking and has strengthened our capabilities within the Department. His accomplishments early in his career and at the White House were instrumental in the early development of Interior's emergency management and wildland fire programs. Many of the policies he created are foundational and support the Department today and will continue to guide the Department in the future.

ESTLE LEWIS-MCBRIDE

Throughout his tenure in the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Mr. Estle Lewis-McBride has developed, expanded, and maintained a Continuity Program for the Department of the Interior that is highly respected and often referred to as a being a benchmark for excellence in Continuity across the Federal Government. In this role, Mr. Lewis-McBride is recognized as a national leader in continuity policy. Mr. Lewis-McBride's counterparts at other Federal agencies have elected him regularly to serve as the Chair on the Steering Committee for the Interagency Continuity Advisory Group. Mr. Lewis-McBride continues to lead the effort to ensure continued performance of the 47 Interior Mission Essential Functions under all types of emergency conditions and was responsible for coining the term "Essential Support Activity (ESA)" for inclusion in the DOI COOP Plan. Recognizing the importance of this category of activities, FEMA adopted Mr. Lewis-McBride's term of art and included it in the update to Federal Continuity Directive 1 which provides government-wide Continuity of Operations planning for Executive Branch D/As. Additionally, under Mr. Lewis-McBride's leadership, the Department's participation in emergency management exercises has expanded

to address the preparedness of mid and senior level managers as well as Department Senior Leadership. Mr. Lewis-McBride's leadership and planning efforts to design, implement and execute the Department's participation in national exercises has led to a steady increase in the number of participants over the last 10 years and ultimately reached over 1,250 Department employees nationwide during the National Exercise Program Capstone Exercise in 2014.

GLENN F. SMITH

Glenn F. Smith has redefined DOI's perception of security, inspiring a thorough awareness of its vital and on-going importance. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial Vehicle Barrier, Screening Center at the Jefferson Expansion Memorial Arch, and Visitors Center at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial have all benefitted from his plans for enhancing the safety of the structures and their visitors. Thanks to Mr. Smith's vision and insight, incorporating security from the earliest phases of planning and design is now an accepted "Best Practice" at the Department of the Interior. The protective framework and security standards that he established remain in use today and serve as a benchmark for the future. Throughout his career with DOI, Glenn F. Smith has served with distinction, and the outstanding success of OLES's security program is a testament to his dedication and commitment.

BARRY N. ROTH

Mr. Barry N. Roth has served as an attorney in the Solicitor's Office since 1991, and as Associate Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife since 2009. His distinguished career is exemplified by his mastery of conservation and wildlife law, his commitment to public service, and his personal dedication to the Department's conservation mission. Mr. Roth served as the Department's lead attorney for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, successfully negotiated the purchase of several hundred thousands of acres for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and Kenai Fjords National Park, and was a key advisor on decisions protecting the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the Point Reyes National Seashore. He also led other Department conservation efforts, the largest land preservation effort in our history that facilitated the establishment of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Baca National Wildlife Refuge. He was lead counsel for a complex land transaction in Florida that provided water storage and conservation benefits essential to the Everglades ecosystem. His unique legal expertise was central to multiple Solicitor M-Opinions, from interpreting the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, to the duty to protect park resources under the NPS Organic Act, and interpretations of the Endangered Species Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

BRENDA K. JONES

Brenda Jones is recognized worldwide for her work in remote sensing disaster support. Throughout her career, and currently as a senior scientist for the Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center Emergency Response Project, Brenda Jones has acquired and distributed vitally important remote sensing data about natural and manmade hazards to assist decision makers at all levels of government in mitigation planning and emergency response to Federal disaster declarations. With early career experience as a Production System Analyst responsible for incorporating new image processing techniques in EROS rapidly evolving digital data production system, and later as the EROS Disaster Response Coordinator, she was instrumental in the design and development of the EROS web-based Hazards Data Distribution System and served as an EROS primary point of contact, coordinator, and respondent for providing remotely sensed and other geospatial data sets to the domestic and international emergency response community. This extensive experience in digital processing of remote sensing data and firsthand knowledge of first response organizations, led to Ms. Jones' role as a USGS hazards response liaison, where she has been instrumental in providing timely and accurate remote sensing information during numerous events including Hurricane Sandy, the Haiti Earthquake, and the Deep Horizon oil spill. She improved coordination between government and emergency response organizations, ultimately saving lives and property. She played a key role in the development, acceptance, and implementation of the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters, serving as Executive Secretariat and training state and foreign program managers. Ms. Jones demonstrated superb leadership skills in promoting and facilitating teamwork between hazards response groups including leading the Data Management activity of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Working Group on Disasters.

DENIS R. LEBLANC

Denis R. LeBlanc is widely recognized in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and in the broader research community for his many years of scientific leadership and contributions in groundwater science. He created and led what has become one of the world's premier groundwater transport research sites on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. With the support of the USGS Toxics Substances Hydrology Program, Mr. LeBlanc and his collaborators pioneered the design and execution of controlled, large-scale groundwater tracer experiments in the United States. These experiments, and subsequent tracer tests at smaller scales, have greatly enhanced basic understanding of the physical, chemical, and microbiological processes governing groundwater flow and quality. As part of this program, he led research on the history, chemistry, and microbiology of a large treated wastewater plume underlying the site. Studies

at the Cape Cod site have generated over 450 peer-reviewed publications to date. He has conducted field tours at the site for Members of Congress, international visitors, university groups, and the general public, and consistently found ways to relate research findings to societal concerns. Mr. LeBlanc also established a cooperative research program with the Department of Defense at Joint Base Cape Cod, providing the scientific foundation for groundwater restoration at the Base. His work facilitated a highly credible, cost-effective remediation process with benefits for public health, the environment, and the taxpayer. Mr. LeBlanc's contributions have been recognized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which named him the John R. Freeman Lecturer for 2007, and the Geological Society of America, where he was honored as a Fellow in 2013. As a scientist, science manager, and public servant, Mr. LeBlanc has consistently maintained the highest personal and professional standards for which the USGS is known.

THOMAS R. LOVELAND

Dr. Thomas Loveland has demonstrated outstanding scientific insight, technical knowledge, and management skills in the development of land remote sensing satellite research of critical importance to environmental management and policy decision making. Dr. Loveland, an expert in the use of Landsat technology, led the combined effort of scientific researchers and information technology and system engineers, to create an advanced remote sensing based land-change science information system capable of accurately characterizing the rates, causes, and consequences of land cover change. His strong engagement with scientists around the world fostered important international collaborations integrating high-resolution global land cover mapping and monitoring capabilities. Dr. Loveland's ability to transform the science and technical information into usable knowledge for decision makers, resource managers and program executives resulted in fundamental connections across national and international science fora, and government and industry partners. Dr. Loveland led a collaborative effort between the USGS, University of Maryland, Google Earth Engine, the Moore Foundation, and the National Aeronautic Space Administration using Landsat satellite data to comprehensively describe changes in the world's forests from the beginning of this century. This unparalleled survey of global forests tracked forest loss and gain, mapping the changes over 12 years. This work resulted in a precedent-setting article published in *Science Magazine* providing the first detailed global analysis of forest change, which became an extensively cited reference worldwide. Dr. Loveland has produced over 250 publications and presentations across all levels of scientific inquiry demonstrating the exceptional scope and breadth of his collective scientific record and its fundamental importance to domestic and international Landsat data users and the worldwide remote sensing community.

MICHAEL T. MEYER

Dr. Michael Meyer's geochemical expertise has provided new knowledge of the occurrence, fate, and transport of organic contaminants and their degradation products in the environment. Dr. Meyer began his career in 1987 at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Organic Geochemistry Research Laboratory (OGRL) in Kansas as a Ph.D. student studying the environmental fate of pesticides and their breakdown products and continues this research as Director of the OGRL. He and his team have developed innovative analytical methods and applications to study the behavior of new and understudied organic contaminants such as pesticide antibiotics, natural and synthetic steroidal compounds, and "inert" ingredients in pesticide formulations in the environment. His collaborative efforts with a team of USGS scientists provided the first published documentation on the national occurrence of a wide variety of hormones, pharmaceutical, personal care products, and other wastewater contaminants, released into surface water throughout the United States. In 2003, the authors of this paper received the USGS Shoemaker Communication Award–this paper is also the most highly sited paper in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. In another collaborative paper, Dr. Meyer received the Rudolf Hering Medal for most significant paper in environmental engineering. Collectively, these studies have had a profound impact on our understanding of the occurrence, fate, and geochemical transport processes of organic compounds that are not routinely measured. In 2014, Dr. Meyer was highlighted as a Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher, ranking among the top 1 percent of researchers for most cited documents in their specific field (Environment/Ecology).

DAVID P. RUSS

Dr. David Russ began his USGS career in the Branch of Earthquake Hazards, where he made the first independent determination of the recurrence intervals for the earthquakes of the New Madrid Seismic Zone. He then transferred to the Office of Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Engineering where he supervised earthquake research throughout the eastern United States before he was appointed Regional Geologist for the Eastern Region, a role in which he made significant contributions to much needed integration of Bureau science. As Regional Director for the Northeast Region, Dr. Russ worked tirelessly to achieve effective application of USGS science to address major societal issues. Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem is a prime example of a complex problem that benefited greatly from his scientific expertise, leadership, and creative management. Working with USGS scientists, he developed a science plan that integrated the best scientific information to support successful restoration. This adherence to sound science led to an enthusiastic adoption of the plan by the multiple Federal, State, and municipal agencies involved. A second major national issue has been the hydraulic fracturing of rocks for oil and gas production. Potential environmental damage, such as pollution of water supplies, has been a highly debated subject. Dr. Russ served as the technical lead for the Department of the Interior to design a multi-agency Federal research strategy addressing fracturing. He introduced the concept of baseline analysis of the environment prior to fracturing, demonstrating that certain chemicals in question occur naturally. Baseline analysis was adopted as a fundamental procedure of the Federal-State plan for regulating fracturing. His persuasive stand for making sound science the basis for public policy brought rational discussion and positive recognition for the USGS role.

Valor Awards

The Valor Award is presented to Department of the Interior employees who have demonstrated unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in the face of danger. The act of heroism is not required to be related to official duties or to have occurred at the official duty station. Recipients receive a citation signed by the Secretary and an engraved gold Valor Award Medal.

Valor Awards

Award Recipients

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Gabriel T. Cruz

National Park Service

Onassis Batista
Henry Bustamante
Matthew B. Davis
Cooper Differding
Justin R. Gibbs
Shaun R. Hughes
Shannon Jay
Tracy L. Whitaker
Daniel C. Williams

Bureau of Land Management

Thomas M. Hill
John A. Szympruch

GABRIEL T. CRUZ

On January 18, 2015, two United States military personnel attempted to swim in the ocean waters of Ritidian Beach located within Guam National Wildlife Refuge. This beach area has previously claimed several lives because of the treacherous waters and extreme ocean currents. That day Officer Gabriel Cruz was on duty, when he observed two men sitting on the edge of the reef with snorkel gear. Officer Cruz attempted to alert the visitors to the potential danger by using a flashlight and whistle while standing on the shoreline about 500 feet away. Suddenly, a rogue wave swept the men into the ocean. Officer Cruz immediately contacted local fire rescue units and paramedics. Before emergency personnel could arrive, Officer Cruz witnessed the first man drift to the shallow shoreline of the beach, safely making it to shore. The second man was still drifting in the open ocean calling for help. At great personal risk, Officer Cruz swam into the high surf and fast ocean currents making contact with the distressed swimmer and assisted him to the shoreline. Officer Cruz immediately resumed radio communications with the emergency responders, informing them of the victim's status. After medical units arrived, both men were treated at the scene and transported to the local hospital. Without Officer Cruz's quick thinking, decisive and heroic actions, one of the two men would have perished in the rough ocean waters.

JUSTIN R. GIBBS
TRACY L. WHITAKER

On the morning of October 17, 2014, National Park Service Rangers Tracy Whitaker and Justin Gibbs received a report that a man with a gun was holding people hostage at a bakery in nearby Leslie, Arkansas. Searcy County Sheriff's Office requested their assistance and without hesitation, they responded to the call. While in route, they learned that a deputy and an Arkansas State trooper were on the scene and entering the building. Seconds later, they received an update that the suspect was shooting at the officers. Continuing their emergency response with heightened urgency, the two rangers arrived and were met in the parking lot by a county deputy who advised them that the two people had been shot and injured–the suspect and the Searcy County deputy. The rangers immediately entered the building to provide emergency medical care to the injured suspect and deputy. The rangers, trained in tactical pre-hospital care were also prepared for the unexpected in the still unstable scene. As they began rendering aid they located a concealed handgun on the wounded suspect and safely secured it preventing him from causing further harm to himself or others. For their lifesaving aid to the victims and demonstrated courage while navigating a dynamic, unfolding, and dangerous incident, National Park Service Rangers Justin R. Gibbs and Tracy L. Whitaker are recognized with the Valor Award of the Department of the Interior.

ONASSIS BATISTA

On January 28, 2015, Officer Onassis Batista was on patrol at Hyde Street Pier in the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. A citizen told him that a woman was in distress in the frigid water of San Francisco Bay near Aquatic Park. Officer Batista immediately ran to Aquatic Park and observed a woman in the water yelling. From the beach, he called out for the woman to return to shore, but she resisted and began to drift away. Officer Batista radioed for San Francisco Fire Department's (SFFD) Water Rescue Unit to respond. He ran to his vehicle and removed his shirt, vest, and gun belt. Officer Batista then put on a life jacket and grabbed a life ring. He attempted to throw the life ring to the woman while radioing that the water (reportedly 54 degrees) was too cold to enter. Realizing the woman was emotionally disturbed and might soon drown, Officer Batista waded into the extremely cold and treacherous water attempting to reach her with the life ring. He continued walking towards the woman until he was up to his neck in the water. He again threw the life ring towards her, telling her to grab it. After some coaxing, the woman grabbed the life ring, and Officer Batista began pulling her to shore. Once onshore, SFFD transported the woman for medical treatment. Officer Batista's quick action in a stressful and hazardous situation directly contributed to saving the woman's life.

MATTHEW B. DAVIS
SHAUN R. HUGHES

On September 18, 2014, a scuba diver was exploring the wreck of a schooner Nelson in Lake Superior. As the diver prepared to ascend, he realized that he did not have the correct equipment to regulate his ascent. This caused him to uncontrollably rise the entire 220 feet to the surface. Once aboard his boat, he was unable to move his arms or legs. With one diver still below the surface and unaware of the events occurring above, the crew in the boat could not leave the area. The boat captain called the U.S. Coast Guard for help; the Coast Guard in turn requested assistance from the rangers at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Rangers Shaun Hughes and Matthew Davis quickly boarded a National Park Service boat, along with members of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary. They immediately encountered extremely rough waters, battling 6-foot waves as they responded 8 miles offshore to meet the injured diver. The other diver had finished his work and safely surfaced to the research boat just moments before the rangers arrived. Upon reaching the research boat, Rangers Hughes and Davis assessed the diver and recognized the symptoms of severe decompression sickness. They immediately placed him on oxygen. Transferring the diver to the National Park Service boat was too dangerous in the existing lake conditions, so they continued

treatment onboard the diver's boat as Ranger Hughes escorted them back to the harbor where a medical helicopter was waiting. The diver was transported to a local hospital where he was treated using a rare U.S. Navy protocol for severe decompression injuries. The protocol used is rare since most people with critical decompression injuries die before treatment. In this case, the diver has regained some movement in his arms and hopes to regain the ability to walk. The rapid and appropriate response of the National Park Service Rangers and Coast Guard Auxiliary crew in difficult and dangerous conditions, along with the early oxygen therapy and prompt transport to the hospital, saved the life of the distressed diver.

DANIEL C. WILLIAMS

In the early evening of September 8, 2014, National Park Service Ranger Daniel Williams responded to a dispatch call of reported gunshots and a woman screaming at the Buffalo Point Campground. Ranger Williams requested backup, parked his patrol vehicle out of view of the campsite, retrieved his rifle, and proceeded on foot through the partially wooded campground. Ranger Williams spotted a man hurriedly backing a truck to a campsite as if to load something. He challenged the man to surrender but the man fled into a tent. With weapon drawn, Ranger Williams took cover behind a large tree and ordered the suspect to come out of the tent, and then directed him to get on the ground. Once on the ground, Ranger Williams handcuffed the subject. Ranger Williams then found two pistols at the campsite and a woman lying in the tent bleeding from multiple gunshots. Ranger Williams radioed dispatch to apprise them of the situation while providing emergency medical care to the victim to help stop the bleeding. As emergency responders arrived, Ranger Williams ensured that the victim continued to receive treatment until evacuated. After the suspect was taken into custody, Ranger Williams secured the crime scene and worked tirelessly on the subsequent investigation. The investigation revealed that the woman had been shot by her husband 4 times and had sustained life-threatening injuries. Because Ranger Williams responded quickly and provided emergency medical care, the woman recovered from her wounds.

HENRY BUSTAMANTE
COOPER DIFFERDING
SHANNON JAY

On July 13, 2011, National Park Service Ranger Shannon Jay, Lifeguards Cooper Differding and Harry Bustamante responded to a report of several visitors at Tennessee Valley Beach swept out into the Pacific Ocean. Prior to their arrival, Southern Marin Fire Department Medics observed a citizen pulling an unconscious adolescent from the 53 degree water onto the rocky cliffs, where two other victims were stuck part way up the cliff face. In order to reach the victims, the rescuers navigated waist-deep water, simultaneously avoiding 8 to 10 foot waves and hidden rock outcrops all across the beach. With no margin for error, they utilized ongoing risk analysis training to locate the victims in a pocket cove. To avoid serious injury, Ranger Jay and Lifeguards Differding and Bustamante used their skills to successfully time the dangerous waves and arrived safely at the cove. While the waves surged violently around the rescuers, two rescue helicopters made multiple extended hovers over the scene in order to retrieve the three victims, one of whom was critically injured. During the retrieval, rotor wash from the helicopters caused rocks to collapse from the cliff face which crashed onto the victims and rescue personnel. Ranger Jay and Lifeguards Differding and Bustamante placed themselves at great risk working with the other rescuers to protect and rescue litter aloft in turbulent waters, protecting the unconscious victim. Once secure, the unconscious individual was transported to intensive care with head trauma.

JOHN A. SZYMPRUCH
THOMAS M. HILL

BLM Law Enforcement Rangers John A. Szympruch and Thomas M. Hill of the Roseburg District Office in Oregon, were among the first law enforcement officers to race to the scene of the Umpqua Community College shootings in October 2015. The BLM Rangers used their experience to respond swiftly, secure the site, and attend to the medical needs of the wounded, saving several lives.

Meritorious Service Award

The Meritorious Service Award is the second highest honorary recognition granted to employees in the Department of the Interior. It is presented for an important contribution to science or management, a notable career, superior service in administration or in the execution of duties, or initiative in devising new and improved work methods, and procedures. A special certificate and citation signed by the Secretary, as well as an engraved silver Meritorious Service Medal and silver lapel pin are presented to recipients by their Bureau or Office head. These are the recipients who have been honored since the last Departmental Honor Awards Convocation on March 7, 2015.

Award Recipients

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Mary Elaine Helix
Caryn H. Smith

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jerry W. Olmsted

Office of the Solicitor

Amy B. Sosin

U.S. Geological Service

Robert A. Ayuso
Paul E. Exter
Jane M. Hammarstrom
Christopher G. Ingersoll
Harry E. Lerch
Brian L. Loving
Delia A. Poole
Robert R. Seal
Taeko J. Takahashi
Tamara L. Dickinson
Martha N. Garcia
Larry D. Hothem
Elizabeth A. Lemersal
Michael Lisowski
Bruce F. Molnia
Klaus J. Schulz
Kathleen R. Simmons
David J. Wald

Bureau of Reclamation

Denise M. Hosler
Ronald E. Milligan
Michael P. Jackson

Meritorious Service Award

Award Recipients

National Park Service

Thomas A. Bradley
Betty Debs
Darrin Knapp
Barbara Maynes
Sandra McDermott
Monica Norval
Andrew C. Ritchie
Mary S. Creachbaum
Karen Gustin
William G. Laitner
Scott McCollough
David K. Morris
Kelly Powell
Dusty G. Shultz

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Michael Black

Bureau of Land Management

Stephanie M. Carman
Richard M. Estabrook
Jeffery L. Foss
Karen Kelleher
Matthew E. Magaletti
Johanna M. Munson
Jerome E. Perez
Mary Jo Rugwell
Stephen Small
Kathryn J. Stangl
Joseph R. Stout
Melvin J. Tague
Ruth L. Welch
Jamie E. Connell
Roxanne D. Falise
Michael J. Haske
Paul J. McNutt
Lauren L.C. Mermejo
Timothy M. Murphy
Frank R. Quamen
John F. Ruhs
Karl M. Snow
James R. Stockbridge
Jolie Pollet Strohmeyer
Matthew S. Varner
Jenna L. Whitlock

– continued on next page

Meritorious Service Award

Award Recipients

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Craig K. Ogawa
Diana M. Takagi

Interior Business Center

Donna F. Jenik

Office of Natural Resources Revenue

Lydia A. Barder
Lorraine F. Corona
Paul A. Knueven
Robert Kronebusch
Hans Meingast
Karen Osborne

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Earl D. Bandy

The Star-Spangled Banner

Text: Francis Scott Key 1814
Music: John Stafford Smith

Oh say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there.

Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

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